THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

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## NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

documents from the hand of that eminent patriot relating to subsequent events in the same section of New York. From these papers we make the following extracts, which will serve further to illustrate the events and scenes of that day.

Letter from Rev. James Caldwell to Mrs. Caldwell.

ALBANT, MAY 24, 1776. where Col. Dayt n's battalion was sent to rout out a horrid nest of tories. Sir Joux Jouxses has upon his land near six hundred Scot s and Germans, who are needy and dependant upon him-the greatest part of them, from fear or stupidity, will do what he directs. Before we arrived Sir John and the greater part of tenants retired into thick woods with their arms, whither it was impossible for us to follow them. Besides, we had another obstruction. About nine miles distant from Johnstown is the lower castle or tribe of Mohawk Indians. Sir John's influence, joined with that of their misschoolmaster, prevailed upon the warriors to appear in arms as soon as we arrived in that country. It was therefore necessery to hold a treaty with them, and appease their minds lest we should bring on an Indian war. This treaty lasted Monday and Tuesday; the Sachems were for us; the warriors generally of the lewer castle are tories, and came painted in a horrid warlike manner. Our brave youth looked upon this as a kind of insult and challenge, and wished for liberty to avenge the indignity offered to continental arms. We, however, conducted the treaty with such calmness and firmness as brought the warriors to declare themselves fully satisfied, and that they would go home in peace ; but, before this was finished. Sir John, and as many of his party as he could take with him, marched off, and it is thought will attempt to go to Niagara or Opnegacha. It is probable they them, or will so suffer in the wilderness that many of them will not reach the place they intend. By what lady Johnson says, they expected our people were defeated at Quebec, and that troops were arrived at New York. I think it therefore probable that Sir John intends to join the troops at Montreal. and come down and attack that place. But the Lord sceth all these things, and, if he delighteth in us, will deliver us out of their hands. I find, however, that the gentlemen of from their service if some more effectual and vigorous meacluded upon or a step taken but is communicated by them their associates from Quebec to New York : and whatever additions can serve their purpose, they can join without scraple The woman in Johnstown, where we lodged, received letter while we there from her husband, Captain Tyer, in London, who fled there with Guy Johnson. This must have been conveyed by tories, and thus they transmit intelligence England and from one another. Johnstown, though but a small village, is so situated as to render it an object o great importance. It is a key from the upper to the lower parts of the country. Its neighborhood to the Indian counparts of the country. Its neighborhood to the Indian countries gives those who possess it great advantages over those contemptible, and yet, in some respects, terrible people. A large courthouse of brick, a beautiful church, and a strong jail of stone, are so placed as to answer well for fortifica-tions, and were probably intended by Sir William Johnston for that purpose. Our troops are pursuing measures to quiet the country there, and a garrison consisting of one or two companies will undoubtedly be stationed there when we leave it, which I expect will be next week. I came down to negotiate this matter, and shall return to-morrow; and when I arrive here again, on our way to Quebec, shall, God willing, write to you again. Colonel Dayton, Major Barber, and all other acquaintances are well. Those who at first attended prayers as a task, now do it of choice, and give solemn attention. The officers treat me with great respect and I have the strongest marks of their affection. joined them I have not met the least offence, nor any thing to put me out of humor. If my family and congregation are well, I am happy amid useful fatigues. Last night I slept in a bed for the first time the week past. Some of the tories concerned in the plot we were sent to

prevent are just now brought prisoners to this town. Resmote some that were engaged, and compassion some particular friends caused them to disclose the plot and a number of the confederates. Of this whole matter you shall soon have a full account; at present it is not proper to say more. Surely we have the right, or such infernal mea-sures would not be devised by them against us. Goods are here as dear, I believe, as with you, but more plenty of them. I have sent you six pocket handkerchiefs, which cost five

I have not received a letter from any of you since I came from home. Mr. Long was here to-day, and says he left Elizabeth town last Tuesday, and that all were well. N. Deane ha received two letters since here; and are my friends less min !ful of me? My sincerest love to you, the dear babes, and all friends. Yours, as ever, in the tenderest bonds,

JAMES CALDWELL.

Copy from a Journal kept by Rev. James Caldwell.

GERMAN FLATS, JULY, 1776. TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1776 .- At 10 o'clock Gen. SCHUYLER arrived, accompanied by Mr. Dow and Mr. Edwards, com-missioners for Indian affairs, and several other gentlemen from Albany and Schenectady. Some Indians of the Mohawk and Oneida tribes had been here several days, who drew provi-sions. In the afternoon arrived Peter Rikeman, an Indian sions. In the afternoon arrived Peter Rikeman, an Indian trader, from Niagara, accompanied by twenty-one Senecas. He left the Fort under the pretence of going out to shoot pigeons, accompanied by his son, a young man, but had previously communicated his design to a few of the Indians, who conducted him safely. He informs that the fort at Niagara is exceedingly well fortified, and the garrison consists of about two hundred, expected to have been invaded in the spring, and that, had any considerable body of our people appeared, the garrison, instead of opposing, would have gladly received them, owing chiefly to a scarcity of provisions for several months, and continued until 8th of May, when they received supplies. They have but few Indians there, and those are detained by almost constant intoxication. Five days' march from Niagara, Mr. Rikeman met a captain, three lieutenants, three soldiers, and a guide, who had made their escape from Pennsylvanie, having broke their parole, and escape from Pennsylvania, having broke their parole, and were then going to Niagara. By Mr. Rikeman we also bear that Sir John Johnson suffered greatly in his march to hear that Sir John Johnson suffered grown say fifteen; and Oswegeha. Many of his party died; some say fifteen; and that it was said he was gone to Montreal. The Senectribe, Mr. Rikeman thinks, are friendly; they are more at tached to us than several tribes nearer us. They have taken great pains to draw off the few that are at Niagara, but strong liquor is too powerful for their arguments and entreaties.

In the evening Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Deane set out for

Oneida, to hurry the Indiana down to the treaty. WEDNESDAY, 17TH .- Arrived, one hundred and seventy four Indians, chiefly of the Onenhogbquage tribe of Oneidas; part of them were Tuscaroras, who, living in their neighborhood, chose to accompany them rather than their own nation. Mr. Crosbey, a worthy minister, who is missionary to those

sheds, ten or twenty feet long, faced each other, contained several families, and one fire in the middle supplied both. They have their squaws and children with them. The squaws are generally at work, making moccasins, and such other things as they use themselves, or expect to sell to us. They are here almost as much as at home or any where else,

especially as we supply them with provisions.

THURSDAY, 18TH.—It rained, and nothing happened worth

FRIDAY, 19TH — I visited the Indian encampment, and seven chiefs of the Onenhoghquage tribe drank tea with me. They could not speak English, but were very social and pleasant among themselves, and with us, so far as I could converse by an interpreter. After tea, a drink of cider, and a pipe, Good Peter addressed me: "Father, we all thank you; we did not expect this invitation and this kind treatment; it makes us glad; you have our best wishes." I replied, "I was very glad to see them; I loved them as children, and when they returned to their own homes I should still have the heart of a fether for them?" In the foreness, treatment of their principal. The publication, on the 19th ultime, of the historical memorial narrating the particulars of the disarraing by Gen. Soruyler of a body of disaffected people at Johnstown. (New York.) has induced a surviving immediate descendant of the Rev. James Caldward., of historical celebrity. (serving as a chaplin with the army in New York at the period referred to,) to supply us with copies of certain decuments from the land of thest eminent potriot.

the afternoon the Senecas asked us to see them dance, to which we readily consented. They painted, after their usual manner, red, black, blue, and every color in their power. Those who dance are naked except their breech cloths and ornaments. Those who dance are the youngest men-; the chiefs are spectators and conductors. The middle state conduct the music. One beats upon a keg, over the head of which is stretched a skin; the others round him join their but soft, and all keep time and tune with the greatest exactness. Every one who sings has two little sticks, which he dancers perform after their manner, which consists of violent exertions, according to some rule. This Seneca dance ap-peared as new to the other Indians as to us. It is said they tribes. Once in the space of two minutes, more or less, they stop with a shout, in which they exert their voice to the ut-

who was a spectator, steps forward and strikes with a stick, which produced an instant pause. In a short speech he related his warlike exploits, the prisoners and scalps taken from other mations, appealing to those who were witness: he then finished with a present of a little paint wrapped up in a paper, which he had received from the Commissioner for that pur-pose. This was received by all with great marks of applause. Soon after, another, and then another, did in like manner. This custom is intended in the time of their mirth to inspire manner an opportunity to relate publicly their gallant deeds.

The Senecas are taller and better proportioned than the other
Indians present, or the whites; and from their healthful, fleshy appearance, are more temperate and better fed.

given. Lectured in the afternoon to a larger audience, from MONDAY, 22p.—Laid out the lines of a fort, and set the

nundred Oneidas, with Mr. Kirkland; others are on their 1492. Mr. Donge thus describes it: way. They bring accounts that the distant nations were at the Onondaga castle collecting and consulting, and that we

night expect them in four days.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH.—In the afternoon the Oneidas wait the army and the active persons in the country will withdraw chief arose to conduct the ceremonies of adoption. He pointpeated acclamation and assenting shouts of the assembly.

This being interpreted, the Colonel arose and complimented them, and concluded with a present of three gallons of rum to drink his health. This last seemed particularly grateful.
When this ended, the chief then pointed to me, and going through the same ceremonies, I received the name of Ongng-wanantagon, "the light fixed in the firmament."

THURSDAY, 25TH .- Nothing new, except the intelligence brought by Scomenda, an Oneida chief, that Butler was kindling a council fire upon the west branch of the Susque-banna to collect the Indians. He assured them that Guy Johnson is in Canada; that our people had fled before him; and that he would attend the council. It was thought this step of Butler's would stop the Senecas, who were also fright ened with the report of small-pox here, and that the Onondagas and Cayugas would more generally go there.
Farnar, 26th.—This morning, the women of the Oneids

tions. The one who spoke appeared considerably confused. In general the women appear timid and modest. After the speech, they presented a few curiosities of their work to the Commissioner, for which they no doubt expect a more ample that the size of modern Turkey. The geogra-

SATURDAY, 27TH .- Nothing new. SUNDAY, 28TH.—Mr. Kirkland preached in Indian. The Indians rehearsed very decently. They are remarkably grave and serious at public worship, and they sang pealms in Indian, carrying the tune in three parts very pleasantly, the women ecially, in softness and sweetness of voice.

## OCEAN COMMERCE.

Recent successful experiments would seem to indicate that steamers of large size, with screw propellers, are henceforward to do a large share of the carrying trade of the ocean. Combining in a great degree the economy of sailing vessels with the certainty of first class steamers, they must take precedence of either, in the transportation of most kinds of mer-chandise. The same considerations will induce emigrants seeking our shores to give them preference. That they will command the confidence and patronage of all those who aim at cheapness, precision, and reasonable celerity, there can

Messrs. Spofford & Tileston, whose sugacity and busines nterprise have given them a front rank among the merchants four city, have been the first to enter this field. The new Propeller, the *Pioneer*, now being completed for their New York and Liverpool line, is among the best, if not the best, vessel of her class ever built. She lies at the foot of Delancy street, and will well repay a visit from those who are interested in such matters. She is of 2,700 tons measurement, and full built; but of so fine a model, and so easy a water to be driven by a screw of iron ten feet in diameter, having

and it is not a little curious to see with what case her immense boilers, each weighing nearly one hundred thousand mense boilers, each weigning hearly one handred thousand pounds, are raised and put in place by Bishop's patent boom derrick. They are many tons heavier than those of the Baltic, or any other steamer heretofore built, and yet the work of transferring them from the shore to the depths of the vessel goes on as quietly as the winding up of a clock, and

is all accomplished by the power of a single horse.

The discovery of a mechanical power so wonderful in its force and so easy of application—so suited to the wants and exigencies of this age of enterprise and bold achievement must certainly be regarded as one of the happiest triumphs of inventive genius — New York Mirror.

AND STILL THEY COME.-United States Marshal Knox. AND STILL THEY COME.—United States Marshal Knox, assisted by his Deputies, made another haul on Friday evening, in the town of Salem, Wastenaw county, (Michigan.)
They arrested one Van Sickles and another person, whose name we did not learn, for being engaged in counterfeiting United States coin.

On Van Sickles's premises they found about a peck of bogus coin, in half dilleger the states of the states of

coin, in half dollars, Mexican dollars, five franc pieces, and quarter eagles. They also found a beautiful set of dies for making half dollars. The dies were found buried in his coal house, (he being a blacksmith,) and the coin in the bellows of the shop. The coin was well executed, and would readily pass among any but sharp business men.

[Detroit Advertiser of Monday.

DEATE BY A FIRE ENGINE .- At Huntsville, in Alabama on the 14th ultimo, in consequence of an alarm of fire, a firemen's company turned out, and were running with their engine to the spot, when Thomas W. Smith, a worthy citizen, of the firm of Smith & Wilson, who was assisting in drawing the engine, fell, and the wheels ran over him, crushMEMORIALS OF COLUMBUS.

We have received a copy of a paper read before the Maryland Historical Society on the 3d of April last by ROBERT DODGE, Esq., of New York, entitled "The Memorials of Columbus." These were accidentally discovered, as follows:

"Of the autograph letters of Christopher Columbus the re but three as yet known to the world; the residue, though long desired, have never yet been brought to light.

complished mind of him who was confessedly at the head of physical science, at that period of the awakening of the human intellect; which speaks to us, at the vast distance of near three centuries and a half, of his daily griefs, hopes, and plans of beneficence; in that most mellifluent of human tongues, the daily speech of his contemporaries, Michael Apgelo, Times and a half, of his contemporaries, Michael Apgelo, Times and the daily speech of his contemporaries, Michael Apgelo, Times and the detailed with the popular idea of waves rolling mountains high.

Dr. Scoresby, in a paper read before the British Association at Edinburgh, has thrown much light upon this interesting inquiry. His researches, an account of which we find the daily speech of his contemporaries, Michael Apgelo, Times and the demindence with the popular idea of waves rolling mountains high. fian, Corregio, and Raphael, and whose harmonies were, even as Columbus wrote, flowing in immortal grace from the pane

rmer Senator of Genoa, was, after his death in July, 1816, bers the 'Codice dei Privilegii del Colombo.' The Decurions of Genos, anxious to procure this treasure, had the public sale adjourned until the King's answer had been received to their memorial on the subject. The King of Sardinis, Vicoriginals to be deposited in the archives of the Court at Turin ; where, an accurate copy having been taken at the solicitations of the Decurions of Genoa, the originals were given up to them, and the copy left at Turin. The originals were received by Genoa on the 29th day of January, 1821, and shortly after a beautiful monument or custodia, being a mar ble pillar surmounted by a bust of Columbus, was erected as their honored depository, and placed in an spartment in the beautiful marble palace of the Doges of Genoa. A small door of gilded bronze in the centre opens to still another door of similar material, behind which, in their golden receptacle, stop with a shout, in which they exert their voice to the utmost. The singers are grave, and the dancers full of pleasantry. After a little pause the music begins again, and the dance goes on. They stamp violently upon the ground, and exert themselves to great latigue. The dance seems calculated to enure to hardship, and to render the muscles vigoreus. In the middle of the dance one of the chief warriors, be obtained, on written application to these dignitaries."

be obtained, on written application to these dignitaries."

"The documents contained in this monument to Columbus consist of forty four separate charters, warrants, orders, and grants of privileges, beautifully engrossed on vellum by the art of the copyist and illuminator of that age, and also the sutograph letters of Columbus.

"These documents are enclosed in a bag of richly-gilt and

embossed scarlet Spanish leather, with a silver lock, being the 'book of copies of his letters and of his privileges,' which, in 1502, when he set eff upon his fourth and last voyage, he entrusted to the care and guardianship of Signor Francesco d Rivarolo to forward to his intimate friend at Genoa, 'the nost learned doctor,' as he styles him, and 'the ambassador

Nuremburgh, in Bavaria, to examine the terrestrial globe constructed by Martin Behaim, (or Boehm,) the friend and associate of Columbus, and which it has been asserted by those who never saw it men to work. No more arrivals of Indians, except a few

"The family of Behaim possess a globe made by their cestor, Martin Behaim, in the year 1492, while Columbus was yet at sea. It is in the mansion adjoining the Lindauer gallery. It is said to be the earliest in existence; and tradition says that its artist was an early patron, by his wealth and influence, of the enterprise of Columbus. It is in perfect preervation, although dingy enough by the lapse of centuries after the notions of classical geographers. The equinoctial and zodiac are defined, but there is an utter absence of latitude and longitude. America, North or South, is not there the ocean flows over that side of the earth which afterwards elonged to the western world; and the fancy of the artist has depicted some whales spouting in the locality of the Uni-ted States, and some Spanish Caravals are sailing in unknown directions over Mexico. A few mermaids are combing their locks somewhere near modern Greenland, and, in old Gernan, he has inscribed underneath the intelligence that many of these peculiar animals are to be met with thereabouts. The configuration of Europe is certainly singular; a certain wavy line answers for all coasts; England is about the size of Malta, Germany of modern Russia; Spain about double the size of France; the Mediterranean dwindles to a small lake; a vast region protrudes into the sea beyond the Indies, and is described as the domain of the famous Kaiser Prester John, pher evidently proportions the countries according to their re-lative importance. The whole surface is studded with droll figures, as specimens of the inhabitants, productions, and dis-tinctive features of the countries, with continual inscriptions in German of their names, character, discovery, &c. : forming a diligent abstract of the works of the travellers and geographers whose names are quoted as authorities, and thus giving a very complete idea and resumé of the state of geo-graphical knowledge of the time."

We hope the example given by Mr. Dodge, (a who are soon to travel over the various countries of spondence of great value.

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS. If we grow more corn to an acre than any other people, we benefits. It would not only add to the security of passengers, but it would increase the income of the companies. The more safe you make a thoroughfare, the more you make that thoroughfare travelled. At the present time there are thousands of timid people who would no sooner think of travelling behind a locomotive than they would think of travelling behind a bombshell. Nor should we wonder at this. The behind a bombanell. Nor should we wonder at this. The accidente, which are continually killing and maining our fellow-citizens, are enough to make the best of us cowardly. The law passed by the Legislature a year or two since, making our railroads liable in damages for any life or limb des royed, would, it was thought, be somewhat beneficial in its operations, but it has not been. As the men who pay the fines are not the m-n who do the damage, it is easy to be seen that fines will never be productive of carefulness. Double tracks, and double tracks only, are the remedies for collisions. So long as it is possible for folly to run into temerity, so long may people expect to see a broken. may people expect to see a broken leg among the charges made for a trip from here to any where. The substitution of the H. for the flat rail freed the public from a class of dangers which formerly took their rise from snake-heads. What the H. rail did for snake-heads a double track will do for colthe H. rail did for snake-heads a double track.

Reions. Let the people insist on a trial.

[Albany Knickerbocker.

At a late trial, somewhere in Vermont, the defendant, who hood, chose to accompany them rather than the missionary to those mr. Crosbey, a worthy minister, who is missionary to the mr. Crosbey, a worthy minister, who is missionary to those mr. Crosbey, a worthy minister, who is missionary to those mr. Crosbey, a worthy minister, who is missionary to those mr. Crosbey, a worthy minister, who is missionary to the mr. Crosbey, a worthy minister, who is missionary to the mr. Crosbey, a worth mr. Cr HEIGHT AND POWER OF WAVES.

There is a great diversity of opinion among scientific men (says the New York Evening Post) about the height to which waves are sometimes rolled up in a storm. We saw it stated in some journal, but a few days since, that waves never run more than ten feet high, while Humboldt, in his Recently, however, a more careful investigation of the phemena of waves has been instituted, which shows results enfrely at variance with the estimates we have mentioned, and

observation. By an examination instituted during a hard a he found that the average height of the waves was full Ariosto and Machiavelli, must be manifest to all, and more pecially in this land, the scene of his givey, now so report in the state of the hollow. He also found that we could carry nothing without conceding to it.

Another embarrassment, which was never publicly known, sions of his own prophecies.

The library of the Count Michael Angelo Cambiasi, a

> reased. At a secont meeting of the British Association. Thomas Stevenson, Esq., Civil Engineer, gave the results of house, from which it appears that, on the 20th November, 1847, in a heavy ground swell, after a storm, solid water rose t the Bell Rocklighthouse one hundred and six feet above the level of the ea. "If we recollect right," says the print rom which we lave quoted, "the waves have been known e lantern, which is over one hundred feet above the rock. We are informed by Mr. Bennet, the keeper of the lighthouse late on Ninot's Rock, that he has known the waves to rise at that structure above the couplings of the piles, which were thirty-five feet above the rock, and about twenty-five feet above the ligh water mark.

"Here, hovever, the piles of the lighthouse offered but a small resistance to the waves, compared with a solid struc-ture, and the only thing which would be likely to reise the water above the usual level is its striking against the rock itself. This, however, being several feet below the level of high water, would tend rather to break the waves than to rease their height. There is good reason to believe that, during the reent storm which destroyed the lighthouse, the waves struck he store-room, the bottom of which was forty-seven feet above the rock, and, allowing five feet extra for the

the Cape of Good Hope, waves are not unfrequently met with so vast hat a few ridges and a few depressions occupy the extent of a mile. These waves propagate their motion at the rate of thirty or forty miles per hour. Mr. A. G. Findley, in a paper read before the Society of Arts, stated that waves of from three hundred to four hundred feet in length from crest to crest travel with a velocity of twenty to twenty ven and one-half miles per hour, whether they are fifty or gives the priority of discovery to Behaim. This and are often raised by distant hurricanes, having been felt globe was begun in 1491, and completed August, at St. Helesa and Ascension, which are six hundred miles originate at the Cape of Good Hope, a dist waves, and found it to be at the rate of 32.67 English statute and crest. It is a common error to suppose that the water advances with the wave. It is the form only which advances, this was not the proper time to nominate a General, yet, as I rope, seconding the impetus, jerked me alongside of them the water ising and followed impediately after, the water ising and followed impediately after, and the water ising and followed impediately after, and the water is the wa

These statements in relation to the height and velocity of waves have perhaps prepared our readers to estimate, with some degree of correctness, their force. When we see a with the speed of a railroad train, we can readily imagine that its force is almost irresistible. We have already mentioned investigations of Mr. Stevenson. His observations on the force of the waves, made by him with reference to the netruction of marine works, are of much interest and impertance. These observations were made by means of the marine dynometer. He found that during a westerly gale on the 29th March, 1845, a force of three tons per square foot was exerted at the Skerryvore lighthouse, in the Atlantic ocean. In the German ocean, at the Bell Rock lighthouse, the greatest result registered was 3,013 pounds, or about on and a half tons per square foot. These results are astonishing, and it is no wonder that, in the encounter with such a ce, the largest ships are but toys, and wood and iron almos as fragile as glass. Nothing but stone can be expected to resist such a force, and that must be as firmly fastened as the edges on which the waves spend their fury.

The following additional facts about Lighthouses, may be interesting in this connexion, are reported in the "The Eddystone lighthouse, having been built of wood in

1698, was carried away five years after its erection. It was shortly afterwards reconstructed of the same material, the lower part being filled with stone or concrete; it then lasted promising young lawyer, travelling in Europe for general information,) in seeking to enrich his own country while abroad, will be followed by those who are soon to travel ower the various countries of stone ; the stones are dovetailed together, and 'joggled' as it continental Europe, some of whose records of the past connected with America it may be reasonably believed will be found rich with papers and correstands on a rock of the same name on the east coast of Scot-land. It is surrounded by the sea, and is 100 feet high, and venson, and finished in 1810. Its construction is similar to that of the Eddystone. The Skerry vore lighthouse was built by Alan Stevenson, son of the architect of the Bell-rock lightalso contrive to have more accidents to a mile than any nation with whom we have an acquaintance. The number of people killed on our steamboats during the year 1850 was over eleven hundred, while the number who lost their lives by collisions on our railroads amounted to six hundred and seventy more. This was what last year's carelessness did; the present season bids fair to be still more fruitful in coroners' inquests. Within the past month some thirteen different collisions have taken place—the whole of them attended with more or less loss of life. To guard against this class of which is just large enough for the foundation. In constructing this lighthouse, the architect of the Bell-rock lighthouse. The tower is 138 feet high, and the diameter at the base is 42 feet. It stands on a gneiss to have chiefly relied on the weight, rather than on the extension of the materials, for efficient resistance to the impact of the waves. The stones were not dovetailed er joggled, but tree-nails were used merely to keep the work together. with more or less loss of life. To guard against this class of accidents, we only know of two modes: to have a double but tree-nails were used merely to keep the work together track on all railroads, or else compel one or more of the directors to take a seat in front of each engine. So long as gingle tracks and low-priced engineers are employed, so long may we expect to see a continuance of the terrible disasters which are now almost of daily occurrence. The improvement we recommend, we know, would be attended with an immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would also be attended with immense outlay, but it would not only add to the security of passengers. invented by Mitchel. The Maplin and Chapman lights, at the mouth of the Thames, and those at Fleetwood and Beifast are on this principle. Professor Cowper invited attention to the mode in which these structures are rendered compact by means of cast iron braces. The Sources of Light and mode of diffusing it were next adverted to. Common free, first of wood and then of coals, were originally used to furnish light. A coef fire was employed for this purpose in the Isle of Man for ISO years, (as late as the year 1816.) Tallow candles succeeded; candles fastened on wooden rods (as they are some imes seen arranged before booths in fairs) were burnt in the Eddystone lighthouse for forty years after it was completed by Smeaton. Then came lamps with twisted cotton wicks, and then common argand lampe; all these, however, are now superseded by argand lamps and reflectors—one argand lamp with lenses and reflectors, and one argand lamp with lenses and reflection priems. Mr. Cowper illustrated the laws of reflection by several models, diagrams, and familiar examples. As instances of refraction, he alluded to the line of light produced on rippling water by the rays of the sun or moon; each wave may (in common with every curved surface) be considered as a polygon, having an infinite num-ber of sides; there must, therefore, be some side in such a po-sition as will reflect the light. The same effect was produced by a row of glass rods placed side by side. Reference was also made to a looking-glass casting the sunshine on the the street—to the glow in the sky produced by a burning house; this appearance being half-way between the spectator Them and the confingration, occasions continual mistakes as to the

HOW WASHINGTON WAS MADE COMMANDER-

FROM " WORKS OF JOHN ADAMS." Every post brought me letters from my friends, Dr. Win-

throp, Dr. Cooper, Gen. James Warren, and sometimes from Gen. Ward and his aids, and Gen. Heath and many others, urging, in pathetic terms, the impossibility of keeping their men together without the assistance of Congress. I was daily urging all these things, but we were embarrassed with the petition to the King, and the party who were jealous of adependence, but a third party, which was a Southern party of agility. sgainst a Northern, and a jealousy against a New England army under the command of a New England General. Whether this jealousy was sincere, or whether it was mere pride and a haughty ambition of furnishing a Southern General to command the Northern army, I cannot say; but the intention was very visible to me that Colonel Washington was their object, and so many of our stanchest men were in the plan that we could carry nothing without conceding to it.

Another embarrassment, which was never publicly known, and about thirty-six hours' duration, which was carefully concealed by those who knew it, the had abated several hours before the observation, so that the waves had perceptibly subsided, waves were noticed of twenty-six feet average devation from ridge to hollow, and even of thirty feet. They were, however, of no great extent on the commander-in-Chief. Whether he thought an election a constant to close, the upper part of the island interest. was their object, and so many of our stanchest men were in ed Commander-in-Chief. Whether he thought an election a ful chasm was about to close, the upper part compliment due to him, and intended to have the honor of declining it, or whether he would have accepted it, I know not. To the compliment he had some pretensions; for, at that time, his exertions, sacrifices, and general merits in the cause of his country, had been incomparably greater than the cause of his country, had been incomparably greater than the cause of his country. But had been incomparably greater than the cause of his country had been incomparably greater than the cause of his country. The water in the passage appearance of his health. those of Colonel Washington. But the delicacy of his health, and his entire want of experience in actual service, though an excellent militia officer, were decisive objections to him in my mind. In canvassing this subject, out of doors, I found dash up the ales of the Eddystone light to the height of too that even among the delegates of Virginia there were difficulties. The apostolical reasonings among themselves saints of the Ancient Dominion than they were among us of New England. In several conversations I found more than one very cool about the appointment of Washington, and particularly Mr. Pendleton was very clear and full against it. Full of anxieties concerning these confusions, and apprehending daily that we should hear very distressing news from Boston, I walked with Mr. Samuel Adams in the State House yard for a little exercise and fresh air before the hour of Congress, and there represented to him the various dangers that surrounded us. He agreed to them all, but said : " What shall we do?" I answered him that he knew that I had taken great pains to get our colleagues to agree upon some plan, that we might be unanimous; but he knew that they ould pledge themselves to nothing; but I was determined to take a step which should compel them and all the other

members of Congress to declare themselves for or against

something. "I am determined this morning to make a direct

motion that Congress should adopt the army before Boston, and appoint Colonel Washington commander of it." Mr.

concluded with a motion, in form, that Congress would adopt and crest. It is a common error to suppose that the water this was not the proper time to nominate a General, yet, as I reaches a beach, when it becomes really progressive, from the fact that it cannot sink directly down, and therefore falls over in my mind for that important command, and that was a gentleman from Virginis, who was among us, and very well known to all of us ; a gentleman whose experience as an officer, whose independent fortune, great talents, and excellent universal character would command the approbation of al America, and unite the cordial exertions of all the Colonies better than any other person in the Union. Mr. Washington, who sat near the door, as soon as he heard me allude t him, from his usual modesty, darted into the library room. Mr. Hancock, who was our President, which gave me an opportunity to observe his countenance while I was speaking on the state of the Colonies, the army at Cambridge, and the enemy, heard me with visible pleasure; but when I came to describe Washington for the commander, I never marked a more sudden and striking change of countenance. Mortification and resentment were expressed as forcibly as his face could exhibit them. Mr. Samuel Adams seconded the motion, and that did not soften the President's physiognomy at all. The subject came under debate, and several gentlemen declared themselves against the appointment of Mr. Washington, not on account of any personal objection against him, but because the army were all from New England, had a General of their own, appeared to be satisfied with him, and had proved themselves able to imprison the British army in Boston, which was all they expected or desired at that time. Mr. Pendleton, of Virginia, Mr. Sherman, of Connecticut, were very explicit in declaring this opinion. Mr. Cushing and several others more faintly expressed their opposition and their fears of discontent in the army and in New England. Mr. Paine expressed a great opinion of General Ward and a strong friendship for him, having been his classmate at college, or at least his contemporary ; but gave no opinion on the question. The subject was postponed to a future day. In the mean time, pains were taken out of doors to obtain a unanimity, and the voices were generally so clearly in favor of Washington, that the dissenting members were persuaded to withdraw their opposition, and Mr. Washington was nominated, I believe, by Mr. Thomas Johnson, of Maryland unanimously elected, and the army adopted. Hoosic Mountain Tunnel.-The most stupendous pro

ect in the tunnel line which has ever been seriously contem plated in this country is the perforation of the Hoosic moun tain, near North Adams, Massachusetts, for the passage of the trains of the Troy and Boston Railroad. The length of he proposed tunnel is 24,100 feet, or about four miles and three quarters, and the estimated cost \$1,948,557. Such is he configuration of the mountain that it is said no shaft car be suck less than 800 feet in depth. Consequently it will only be possible to work at two points simultaneously, and on this supposition it is calculated that 1,556 days, or more than four years, will be necessary for the completion of the under-taking. The Massachusetts Senate have passed a law, which is now before the House, to loan to the Troy and Boston Raiload Company \$2,000,000 of State bonds, on condition that certain amounts of money shall be expended by the company previous to the advance of the several instalments of the loan m time to time, which expenditures are to exceed the exception of the tunnel, shall be completed; but on this event the entire amount of stock loaned is to be advanced to the

The Boston Daily Advertiser, whose editor is quite at hor in railway matters, calculates that, instead of four or five years, the construction of the tunnel would occupy twenty or thirty years, and that its cost would immensely exceed that above

MAGRIFICENT PRESENT FROM THE KING OF PRUSSIA TO PROFESSOR MOREE —We have just had the pleasure of seeing a present sent by the King of Prussia to our countryman. Professor Morse, in acknowledgment of his success in per fecting his Blectro-Magnetic Telegraph, which is pronounced by his Majesty's Commissioner, after comparison and experiment, to be the most efficient of any in the world, for great distances. The present consists of a magnificent solid gold snuff-box of elaborate workmanahip and design, enclosing the PRUSSIAN GOLD MEDAL FOR SCIENTIFIC MERIT. medal has on the face the medallion head of the King, Fre-derick William the IVth, surrounded by exquisitely executed emblems of religion, jurisprudence, medicine, and the arts; on the reverse, Apollo drawn by four fiery steeds, in the chariot of the sun, traversing the zodiac, while from the of the god the rays of light are darting abroad.

THE "SPLIT ROCK" IN THE PACIFIC

FROM "BOYINGS IN THE PACIFIC"-A NEW BOOK. The Island of Rotumah was a sort of occasional stational for our author. Near it was a remarkable object, called the "Split Rock"-a small island split in two by some convulsion of Nature, leaving a passage through it. A visit made to this place, in company with a man named Emery, who had lived for some years on a neighboring island to which he had given his name, is one of the most interesting passages in more than one difficulty, not only with the party in favor of the "Rovings," for the picture of wonderful natural phenomens, as well as of the power that man can attain in feats

> " We steered for the south side of the island, that we might paddle through the 'split.' As we neared, the weather was so calm that, though no soundings could be obtained close to the island, and the side we were rounding rose perpendicularly from the water, the long glassy undulations of the ocean laved the rocky base without creating a ripple. We approached within an oar's length of this immense rock; its tered from its centre and tumbled int peared of immeasurable depth; and the long smooth rolling swell that swept through it seemed like the convolutions of some monster of the deep. We had only one native with us who had been to the island before; and he desired us to turn face about, that we might work the canoe through stern first, as the landing-place was on our larboard hand, and the outrigger being on the larboard side of the canoe, we should get dashed to pieces unless we shifted. I was somewhat startled, and, being no swimmer, did not altogether relish the intelli-gence; but the imperturbable coolness with which old Emery gence; but the imperturbable coolness with which old Emery set to work caused me to suppress any observation I felt tempted to make. On clearing the passage, prepared as I was for an awkward landing-place, I was not quite prepared for what I saw. The island is a wall of rock shooting upwards from four hundred to six hundred feet high, and curving like a horse-shoe, the southeastern termination of the curve being split and riven into a thousand pinnacles and rocky needles. The passage is the contract the curve in the curve in the contract the curve in the cur sage we came through is exactly in the centre of the creecent; but, instead of finding the sea placid in the 'hollow,' as it was outside, it was tumbling about, foaming and seething like a boiling caldron, roaring and dashing up the rocks as if trying to overleap the opposing barrier, and in its retreat forming such eddies that I momentarily expected to be shivered like the rocks around us. The whole swell of the ocean sets into this thellow; and see if their recoil create this dancing turmoil.

dled into the hollow before us, as they were accustomed to the island, and to land on its steep and slippery sides. The way they managed was admirable. They balanced their caand appoint Colonel Washington commander of it." Mr. Adams seemed to think very seriously of it, but said nothing. Accordingly, when Congress had assembled, I rose in my place, and in as short a speech as the subject would admit, represented the state of the Colonies, the uncertainty in the minds of the people, their great expectation and suxiety, the distresses of the army, the danger of its dissolution, the difficulty of collecting another; and the probability that the British army would take advantage of our delays, march out of Boston, and spread desilation as far as they could go. I amazement at this cool request was admirable. They balanced their canoes so close to the precipitous rock that the lashing surge broke just under their bows and went roaring a hundred feet above them. Wondering what they were going to do, we noticed two of them plunge into the crest of a gigantic roller, and when it had spent itself, and I expected to see their manging on the rocks high over head, smiling and nodding to us. One of them had a long rope coiled round his waist, and he threw the end of it down to us; Emery gave it to me, and told me, when the next swell hove us nearly on a level with the men, to leap with all my might towards them. My amazement at this cool request was too great for utterance. the army at Cambridge, and appoint a General; that though ble moment, I gave a spring, and the natives who held the visited the island threw himself overboard, and in a few mi-nutes he also had secured a footing, dripping like a water-sprite. The two left in the canoe lost their presence of mind, and would infallibly have been lost had not the natives from

Wea reassured them, and directed them how to act." "There is a little soil on the summit or wall-like ridge of the island yielding a growth of coarse grass and a peculiar variety of scrub. The natives have likewise succeeded in rearing a few cocoanut trees. The ascent to a novice is rather ing a few cocoanut trees. The ascent to a novice is rather perilous, and made me wink. You have to wind your way up laterally, and at one point you have to pass round the salient projection of a bald rock where the footing is shelving, and not fourteen inches broad, the rock overhead bulging forward, while below you have a sheer fall between two hundred and three hundred feet in depth. I was for giving it up, when Emery took the lead, telling me it was the only dangerous spot; but then he was barefooted, and for years had been habituated to go so. The tenderness of my feet would not allow me to dispense with above, and the allower soles. not allow me to dispense with shoes, and the slippery soles made my case more perilous. False shame prevented my retreating, but at the time I could not help considering that the object to be obtained was scarcely worth the risk. When I had sidled half-way across this very awkward pass, my arms extended and fingers stretched out nervously clutching at any little unevenness of surface, and whilst I was besitating where next to put my foot, groping in vain for some fiesure into which I might thrust my fingers, or for some root that I might grasp, I caught sight of the frightful descent, my head swam and I was turning sick. At this moment of imminent risk, a native daringly swayed himself outside me, striking me smartly on the back as he passed. This recalled my sensee, and I arrived in safety on firmer footing again. The rapidity with which this bold action was performed is surprising; for a moment the man's body must have been off the centre of graviry, and I believe the poor fellow endangered his life to inspire me with confidence, for had I slipped when he was passing me he would have been involved in certain destruc-

DIVING FOR SHELLS .- FROM THE SAME BOOK. Much of the diving took place at the Bow Island of Cook. or in its vicinity. This is the account of the process :

"On arriving at a reef or knoll, the boat was secured by "On arriving at a reef or knoll, the boat was secured by its painter to a projecting branch, and the divers proceeded to dive from it in all directions; and, as they brought up the shells, so they threw them into the shallow water on the knoll, until the shells became scarce, or they became tired and wanted to pull to another station. Shell-fish of various descriptions are attached to and wedged in the coral branches, apparently having grown with their growth. On a still caim day you may see to the bottom at ten or twelve fathoms, and the shell-fish when feeding reflect times of the most brilliant and

may be seen sporting in the interstices of the coral branches.

"It is a curious sight to watch the divers; with scarcely a movement they will dert to the bottom like an arrow, examine beneath every protruding rock, and, on continuing their investigations, by a simple movement of the arm will propel themselves horizontally through the water, and this at the depth of seven or eight fathoms. I timed several by the watch; and the longest period I knew any of them to keep beneath the water was a minute and a quarter, and there were only two who accomplished this feat. One of them, from his great skill, was nicknamed by his companious the 'Ofai,' (stone.) Rather less than a minute was the usual duration. In fine weather they can see the above the rest if the water. n fine weather they can see the shells, when, if the water here firmly to the coral by strong beards, it requires no little force to detach them. I was astonished on one occasion at witnessing a diver, after one or two ineffectual attempts to tear away a large oyster, sink his legs beneath him, and, getting a purchase with his feet against the coral, use both his hands and fairly drag it off. When they dive in very deep water, they complain of pains in the ears, and they sometimes come up with their noses bleeding; but it is rarely that you can get them to attempt such diving, as, let the shells be ever so abundant, they will come up and swear there are none; the exertion, from the great pressure, is too painfully distressing. It tion, from the great pressure, is too painfully distressing. It has frequently asppened, after a set of worn-out divers have sworn that no more shells could be obtained, that a fresh set has come and procured from fifty to sixty tons without

A New Hampshire paper makes the following extraordinary statement: Benjamin C. Cadun, of Cornish, a few days ago, while excited by liquor, was abusing a favorite horse; his son, about eighteen years of age, interfered, when the father made an assault upon him with a pitchfork. The young man seized it by the prongs, and held it with a firm grasp for a few moments, when the old man let go the handle, fell backwards, and died. The son went to him at once, turned the body over, but his father was a cornse.